GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2961
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
REHABILITATION OF PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS
BHAVNA DEVRAJ CHIKHALIA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995;

(b) the date of its enforcement;

(c) the disabled persons benefited till date, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the achievements made in special programme for rehabilitation of the physically handicapped?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a)to(d) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, which came into force from 7.2.1996, inter alia, provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, development of barrier-free environment, unemployment allowance, and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc. The appropriate governments have the responsibility of providing the policy frame work, institutional mechanism and suitable schemes for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. The Act also provides for grievance redressal mechanism in relation to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities and non- implementation of related laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, guidelines, etc.

For ensuring implementation of provisions of the Act, appropriate governments including States/Union Territories/Central Ministries/Departments have taken various steps in that regard. There are various on-going schemes/programmes of this Ministry for the welfare of the persons with disabilities. There are six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work towards manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide rehabilitation services, research and development etc. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a Public Secto Undertaking under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures and promotes availability, supply and distribution of quality aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), set up in 1997, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities on soft terms of self-employment and income generating activities. Schemes are also under implementation for providing support to non- government organizations working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

The Government have also taken various initiatives specifically for wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Over one hundred districts have been identified for setting up district Centers for persons with disabilities with the objective of providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. Schemes are also under implementation for setting up Composite Regional Centers for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopaedic disabilities. Besides, the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities(NPRPD) scheme has been approved in the State sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. A scheme has also been approved for setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been set up by an Act of 1999 for welfare of the target groups.

Since many of the benefits for the disabled persons under these programmes reach them through voluntary organizations, privately managed institutions, state run programmes and even indirectly, exact figures regarding the persons benefited are not available.